

Applicant : Veneta Hanson et al.
Serial No.: 10/676,691
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Listing of the Claims:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing if a subject patient diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus ~~but not neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus~~ is suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus which comprises:

- a) providing a solid support to which a gamma enolase is bound, wherein the gamma enolase (i) comprises consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, or SEQ ID NO:24[[,]] which and (ii) forms a complex with an any autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23 under conditions permitting any such autoantibody present in the a fluid sample from the subject to form such a complex with the gamma enolase[[,]] is and thus become bound to the solid support;
- b) contacting the solid support from (a) with [[a]] the fluid sample from the subject under such conditions permitting formation of such complex;
- c) removing any of the autoantibody which is not bound to the solid support; and
- d) contacting the autoantibody bound to the solid support with a second antibody having a detectable marker bound thereto, under conditions permitting the second antibody to bind any autoantibody bound to the solid support such that the second antibody thereby becomes bound to the solid support;
- e) removing any second antibody which has not become bound to the antibody which is bound to the solid support; and

f) detecting the detectable marker bound to the second antibody presence of autoantibody bound to the solid support so as to detect any autoantibody bound to the solid support,

wherein the detection of autoantibody bound to the solid support in step (f) ~~(d)~~ indicates that the subject patient is suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein the fluid sample comprises sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein the detectable marker is a radioisotope, a chromophore, a biomolecule, a fluorophore, a radiolabeled molecule, a dye, an affinity label, an antibody, biotin, streptavidin, a metabolite, a mass tag, or a dextran.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10, further comprising determining an amount of complex formed in step (b) and comparing such amount with a standard, wherein a greater amount of complex formed in step (b) than in the standard indicates that the subject is suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the standard is a fluid sample comprising sera, plasma, urine, saliva, synovial fluid, cerebro-spinal fluid, or lymph from a patient not suffering from neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus.

16. (Canceled)

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit which comprises a ~~container comprising~~ (a) a solid support to which a gamma enolase is bound which (i) comprises consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, or SEQ ID NO:24 which and (ii) forms a complex with an autoantibody to a protein comprising consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:21 or 23 is bound, (b) a second antibody having a detectable marker bound thereto which binds to the autoantibody, and (c) appropriate standards.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)